Name _____ Date _____

How a Bill Becomes a Law: The Steps in Order

Directions: Answer each question about how a bill moves through Congress and on to the president. Every bill and name here is made up.

1. In an invented example, a bill starts in the House and follows the usual path through each chamber with no changes. Match each step to its place in the order.

Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ The Senate considers the bill and passes it.
2. _____ The bill is introduced in the House.
3. _____ The bill is sent to the president.
4. _____ The full House debates and votes on the bill.
5. _____ A House committee takes up the bill.

A. Sixth
B. Third
C. Fourth
D. First
E. Fifth
F. Second

2. Keisha, a high school student, writes a careful draft of a bill about bike paths on federal land. She wants the House of Representatives to consider it. Who can formally introduce her bill in the House?

A. The president, by sending the draft to Congress
B. Keisha herself, by mailing her draft to the House clerk
C. A member of the House
D. Any citizen who collects enough signatures on a petition

3. In an invented example, a bill about fire lookout towers is sent to a House committee. Which TWO actions can the committee take? Select 2.

☐ A. Hold hearings where experts speak about the bill
☐ B. Sign the bill into law if most committee members support it
☐ C. Send the bill straight to the president
☐ D. Vote on whether to send the bill to the full House
☐ E. Rule that the bill is unconstitutional

4. A senator in an invented example wants Congress to raise a federal tax. Under the Constitution, where must a bill for raising revenue begin?

A. In the Senate, because a senator came up with the idea
B. In the Treasury Department, which collects taxes
C. In the House of Representatives
D. In either chamber, like any other bill

5. The House passes an invented bill about flood maps. The Senate then passes its own version, which changes two sections. What must happen before the bill can go to the president?

A. Both versions go to the president, who signs them together.

B. Both chambers must agree on one version and pass the same text.

C. The Senate version goes forward, because the Senate voted last.

D. The president picks whichever version he or she prefers.

6. A bill reaches the president while Congress is in session, and Congress stays in session. The president neither signs nor vetoes the bill, and ten days go by, not counting Sundays. What happens to the bill?

A. It becomes law without the president's signature.

B. It is vetoed automatically.

C. It goes back to the House for another vote.

D. It goes to the Supreme Court for a final decision.

7. In an invented example, the president vetoes a bill and returns it to the House, where it started. All 435 representatives vote on passing it again. What is the smallest number of yes votes the House needs for its part of overriding the veto?

_____ votes

8. Near the end of a session, Congress sends the president a bill. The president does not sign it, and ten days pass, not counting Sundays. Before the ten days are up, Congress adjourns, and the adjournment keeps the president from returning the bill. What happens?

A. The bill becomes law as soon as Congress meets again.

B. Congress can override the veto with a two-thirds vote when it returns.

C. The bill becomes law without a signature, because ten days passed.

D. The bill does not become law. This is called a pocket veto.